

WELLESLEY TRAILS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
September 22, 2021

Attendees: Denny Nackoney, Diane Hall, Eric Sofen, Joan Gaughan, Steve Park, Laura Robert (NRC Liaison), Ekaterina Zemlyakova, Jeff Zupan, Jay Prosnitz
Absent: Bob Brown, John Schuler
Location: Outdoors at 11 Tappan Rd.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

A motion to approve the meeting minutes for August 11, 2021 was made by Diane and was followed by a second from Joan. The minutes were approved with 5 yes, Laura and Jeff abstaining.

At the last NRC meeting Jay Prosnitz was appointed to the Trails Committee. Welcome Jay!

NRC Liason updates

The Open Space and Recreation Plan survey is still open. Trails Committee members should review the draft plan.

Fall Walks staffing

Guernsey (Sunday, September 26th) Diane and Joan will lead. They met with Judy Barr from the Wellesley Conservation Land Trust to prep for the walk. They learned about plants in the sanctuary. The WCLT recommended skipping the Oak Island section in order to avoid a large hole left by a fallen tree next to the trail. Ekaterina and Jay will sweep.

North Forty (Saturday, October 2nd)

Denny, Jay (backup leader or sweeper), Ekaterina (sweep), Eric (maybe). Steve will check with Bob regarding his availability.

Town Forest (Saturday, Oct 16)

We decided to see how the turnout is for the first two walks before determining if we need a second walk leader.

New additions to the trails map

Denny worked with town GIS staff to make the following changes to the town trail maps:

- Miguel Lessing pointed out the trail from Bayview Road to the Crosstown Trail near Pine Point. The connection has recorded easement on that property.
- At the end of Pine Plain Road there is a recorded Right of Way for the trail connection to Boulder Brook Reservation.

Cleanup Day with Wellesley Service League and Barton Road

Trail work is schedule for October 24th at 9 or 10 am (time TBD) with the Wellesley Service League at Barton Road. Steve reviewed the waiver with Town Counsel. Denny will bring rakes, clippers, trash bags. Trail markers will be posted at each end of the trail to make it more prominent

Centennial Reservation status

Steve will look into clearing a tree laying across the trail near Putney Road.

Boulder Brook Scout Project

Denny met with a scout about a project to extend the span of the existing bog bridge in Boulder Brook. The scout will build 4 new sections. Early stages of planning are going smoothly. Because it still needs to go through Scouts approval process, construction work will likely happen in spring of 2022.

Transportation Letters

Colette Aufranc is organizing a series of letters for encouraging transportation other than driving. Steve and Allison Burson contributed talking points to Stephanie Hawkinson and Colette on walking, including highlights of the trail network.

Fuller Brook Path condition survey.

Eric summarized the findings (generally minor maintenance issues such as graffiti and a couple surface irregularities). The map of issues was sent to DPW and Branden on 20 Sept.

State Street Brook Path sign

Denny followed up about sign condition problems with Stephen Garrity who made the sign. Stephen will evaluate the sign and provide an estimate on refinishing. We expect to have funds in the budget for any necessary work.

Trail maintenance issues

We discussed the condition of the closed trails in Centennial. Some closed trails have grown in, and some have not. We plan to leave ropes in place until the DPW is ready for the year end field mowing. Some ropes may stay in place through next mud season to prevent over-winter damage.

Along similar lines, Laura suggested we consider adding more fencing on a couple more of the S-curves on the upper meadow before the winter. Denny will look into supplies.

Laura also noted that the closed trail by Sisters of Charity still isn't growing in, so we might consider adding brush to discourage use.

Denny shared a status update on the footbridge behind Bates School over Boulder Brook. DPW built the footbridge in 2007. One of the stringers was cracked by a fallen tree and needed repair. The DPW repaired it, and Denny will talk to Brandon about Trails paying for it out of our budget.

Steve encouraged members to reach out to via email to schedule informal/minor trail maintenance projects. He also reminded members to watch for jumps and other trail modifications when out on the trail network.

Wellesley Office Park trail extension

Denny shared some of the history of discussions with John Hancock and DCR. We discussed how best to proceed with outreach to John Hancock regarding a trail extension.

Website

We have ten self-guided walks on the site created during the pandemic when group walks were cancelled. The committee agreed to keep these on the site permanently and put them under a new tab called "Favorite Walks."

Scheduling site visits for the 5-year plan.

Riverside trail gap (support for Newton/Weston work): date TBD

Rosemary Brook at Town Forest North and moving the Charles River Path near Ouellet Park:

Steve shared some background research. The Town Forest North area is complicated. There is a remnant of an old trail. There is a clear cut for gas pipeline work near there. A few sections may be low-lying.

Steve plans to discuss the area with the water department. After the site visit, we will discuss whether it makes sense to restore the trail. The site visit will be Sunday Oct 17th at 9 am.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 20 October at 6:30 pm in-person, outdoors at Diane's house with Zoom backup.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Documents available by request: FY21 Project List (8/11/21).
Current 5-Year Project Plan is on the Trails website.

Submitted by,
Eric Sofen,
Secretary, Wellesley Trails Committee